



HAMILTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

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Hamilton County Health Department Division of Vector Control

The Hamilton County Health Department's Division of Environmental Health Vector Control program received confirmation notice today, from the Indiana State Department of Health that **the first mosquito sample of the season has tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV)**. The sample was collected from the trap site located in the Town of Arcadia. The detection of WNV activity is evidence that the disease is present in Hamilton County and the public should take proper precautions to stay protected.

For optimum protection the Health Department recommends individuals:

1. Wear long sleeves, pants, socks, and shoes when outdoors.
2. Apply EPA approved insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus to any exposed skin.
3. Keep mosquitoes outside by keeping doors and windows closed or making sure screens are in good repair.
4. Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn, when the mosquitoes that transmit WNV are most active.

In addition, all Hamilton County residents are asked to do the following in order to eliminate mosquito breeding sites around their home:

1. Remove all unneeded containers that hold water (tires, cans, bottles, buckets, jars, drums, and other trash / rubbish).
2. Dump and invert wheel barrows and kiddie / toddler pools when not in use.
3. Change water in birdbaths and pet bowls weekly.
4. Inspect water in flower pots and plant containers weekly.
5. Clean rain gutters.
6. Drain and fill tire ruts, stagnant pools, and puddles.
7. Place tight covers over cisterns, cesspools, septic tanks, tubs, and rain barrels where water is stored.
8. Keep the margins of ponds clear of vegetation and stock ornamental ponds with top – feeding minnows.

As a response to the finding of WNV, the Health Department will increase its surveillance and control activities in the sample positive area. Adult mosquito fogging will be conducted to rapidly to decrease the number of adult mosquitoes in the sample positive area.

For current information about Hamilton County surveillance and control activities, please visit at <http://www.hamiltoncounty.in.gov/323/Mosquito-Control>. This site will be updated with positive WNV mosquito reports and spray schedules. Use "Notify Me" link to receive future health updates.

State of Indiana WNV and St. Louis Encephalitis surveillance data can be found at <https://gis.in.gov/apps/ISDH/Arbo>.